

have enough cases of lost voucher material! Angiosperm families are arranged according to Cronquist's system of 1968 (*The evolution and classification of flowering plants*). Although much thought has gone into this phylogenetic sequence (which has stimulated even more thought), it seems pointless to this reviewer to arrange floras, especially local ones, which should be as easy to use as possible, according to one or another of the most recently proposed phylogenetic schemes. Why not stick to the "alphabets" we all know? One does not study local floras such as this generally excellent one to learn phylogeny.

The format is very pleasing and errors are few. One that will cause more amusement than confusion (p. 48) is the citation of Prof. LeRoy Abrams as the author of *Flora of the Pacific Northwest* instead of the *Illustrated flora of the Pacific States*.

One interesting aspect of this work is that it was done largely during the authors' spare time, during and after their graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley. This flora will be of great use to anyone dealing with the plants of the White Mountains and vicinity, and it is a distinct contribution to our understanding of the plant geography of California.—JOHN H. THOMAS, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305.

A flora of Southern California. By PHILIP A. MUNZ. viii + 1086 pp., map, 103 plates with some 600 figures. University of California Press, Berkeley. 1974. \$16.50.

No taxonomist has to be told why we need a new flora; but it is instructive to compare this one with the same author's *Manual of Southern California Botany*, published 39 years ago. The new book does cover the same plants, plus a few more; but how much more has been learned about them! (For just ten years' worth of additions and improvement, note the size of the supplement to Munz's *A California Flora*.) Yes, we need the new flora; and it is good that he finished it, even though he did not live to see it published.

Dr. Munz lived in southern California for about 55 years, first at Pomona College, where he became Professor of Botany and Dean of the Faculty, then, after an interim at the Bailey Hortorium of Cornell University, back at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, where he was Director until his retirement in 1960. He did extensive general collecting throughout California, but especially the southern part; and he was a steady and productive worker, turning out a series of books and monographs of high quality. He remained active beyond 80, as this new book clearly shows. And he was highly esteemed as a kind and gentle man, a good teacher, and a wise counselor.

The brief introduction to the book touches on the climate, vegetation, geology, and plant distribution in southern California—defined here as extending to Point Conception and Death Valley. The systematic treatment, according to the jacket blurb, covers more than 4000 species. Descriptions and keys are generally of the same scope and quality as those of *A California flora*, from which, in fact, they were largely taken—with necessary additions, subtractions, and improvements.

This book is most convenient for those who know the alphabet. Families are alphabetic under the main subdivisions and classes, which means mostly in two alphabetic sequences. Genera are alphabetic under families, species under genera, and, except for nominate taxa, subspecies and varieties under species. The family name heading the left-hand page and the generic on the right make finding easy, except that some of us may have to learn a few new family names—not Gramineae, for example, but Asteraceae, or whatever it is. The index also is alphabetic but might almost follow Dalla Torre and Harms, it is so nearly superfluous.

The specialist who knows one area or one family can always find details to criticize in a flora. (Perhaps we can criticize ourselves for not sending in those latest tidbits of information that must now await the next book.) However, it takes someone of broad knowledge to write a flora like this one: Dr. Munz was a specialist and monographer, yes; but he had breadth as well as depth.

Because of Dr. Munz's ill health, responsibility for proofreading was taken largely by non-botanists at the press, who have done well. I might search through for typographical errors and minor oversights and omissions to list, as some reviewers delight in doing; but everyone knows they occur in every book, and I would rather look at the work as a whole. To me it is a beautiful book—a boon to all of us, a final achievement in a long and productive career, and a memorial to an outstanding botanist and fine man, who will be missed by the botanical world and by all who knew him.—REID MORAN, Natural History Museum, St. Diego, Upper California 92112.

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